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今日北京

PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY
ISSUE NO. 757
DECEMBER 18, 2015
BEIJINGTODAY.COM.CN
3.00元

ENTER A FAIRYTALE WORLD

ARTIST LIU NA RESPONDS TO TRAGEDY WITH SERENITY AND
PAIN WITH PEACE IN HER NEVERLAND PAINTINGS, A CANVAS
PARADISE ISOLATED FROM THE NOISY MATERIAL WORLD. **P.4**



北京青年报
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

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ISSN: 2095-9591 ■ 刊号: CN11-0120 ■ 邮发代号: I-364 ■ Overseas Code No: D1545 ■ Subscriptions: (010) 6590 2511
Advertisements: (010) 6590 2515 ■ E-mail: info@beijingtoday.com.cn ■ Online Distribution Agents: Spider.com.cn and Kankan.cn
Published under the auspices of the Office of the Beijing Municipal Government. Run by Beijing Youth Daily Group.

ISSN 2095-9591
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FEATURE



No Room in Public for China's Breastfeeding Moms

BY SHU PENGQIAN



CFP Photos

China's Internet users have been battling each other for days over what may be one of the last great debates of 2015: breastfeeding. Few things manage to be both so natural and controversial.

The most recent debate stems from photos of a young mother surnamed Yang who was photographed while feeding her three-month-old daughter on the Beijing subway on November 27. The images were published online by a Weibo user named "Hanjia Xiaoguaixue."

"You're on the capital's subway, not a bus in your village. Do you really think this behavior is appropriate?" Hanjia wrote in the message that accompanied his pictures.

The influential "Beijing Tale" account affiliated with a local community service center reposted Hanjia's image with a stern warning that women "must not expose their sexual organs."

That decision to equate a breastfeeding mother with a public flasher started a whirlwind of anger and inspired many people to rise to Yang's defense.

Critics questioned why Yang didn't feed her child before leaving home, but the father surnamed Fang said the child was sick and was unwilling to eat in the hospital. Yang was forced to choose between annoying other passenger's with her child's crying or breastfeeding on the spot.

"We didn't have a choice. Nobody wants to breastfeed in public," Fang told *Huaxi Metropolis Daily*. "The Internet user didn't even censor the photo for privacy. This whole matter has had a bad effect on our lives."

Fang said he planned to file a lawsuit to unmask and punish the Weibo user unless he issued a formal apology in the headlines of domestic media. Hanjia and Beijing Tale have deleted the original picture, renamed their Weibo accounts and apologized online.

While it remains to be seen whether Fang and Yang will move forward with their case, the national debate about breastfeeding continues.

Mother's Rights

In some ways, discrimination against breastfeeding mothers is an extension of traditional cultural values.

Ancient custom was rife with unwritten rules designed to restrict a women's behavior and speech. Among the most famous is "Three Obedience and Four Virtues," which commands that a woman must obey her father before marriage, her husband while married and her sons during widowhood. The "four virtues" were morality, proper speech, modesty and diligence.

Women were frequently prohibited from walking outside the home or meeting men from outside the family in private. It was also forbidden for women to expose any part of their bodies to strangers – even while breastfeeding.

Modern times have brought an end

to many such discriminatory practices, but traditional ideas persist. Controversy over public breastfeeding is unfortunately frequent.

China.news.com reported in August about one mother in Chongqing who was rebuked by her father for breastfeeding in public. The man said she was "indecent" and "offended public morals."

In October, the *Nanfang Metropolis Daily* reported the case of a young mom in Jiangsu province who was verbally abused by a female passenger on the bus for the same reason.

Many foreign countries, including the US, UK, Canada and Australia, have passed laws to protect mothers who need to breastfeed in public.

China, again, has no relevant laws.

Lack of Facilities

If the Chinese public wants to avoid seeing women breastfeeding in public, it will have to provide women with an alternative venue.

Even in the capital, most public bathrooms do not provide any sort of space where a mother can feed her child.

A reporter from the *Legal Evening News* visited 11 parks in Beijing and found the Beijing Zoo was the only location with a baby room that would make breastfeeding possible. That room opened in October.

According to China.news.com, only one in every 11 major bus stations in Zhengzhou, Henan province has a room where mothers can feed their children: the city's 31 parks, squares and high-speed rail stations have no such rooms at all. Only one of the city's 64 shopping malls claimed to provide a feeding room, though that room remains out of service.

Since public facilities are not available, mothers must breastfeed their children under a blanket. Such blankets can restrict a child's breathing, and many children refused to be covered.

Some blame the lack of nursing rooms on economic development. With the price of Chinese real estate, it's hard to justify a "useless" baby room that could be attached to something else and sold as office space.

Maintaining the rooms requires further money and manpower, meaning many departments simply choose not to build them or to close up existing facilities.

"Creating nursing rooms at our railway stations and bus station would be a net loss in production costs, capital and space," a government official surnamed Xue told CNR. "Unless we are forced from above to construct nursing rooms, there is no way anyone will take the initiative to do it."

That might be what the central government has in mind.

On December 4, the government released a draft regulation that would require larger subway and bus stations to provide nursing rooms for mothers with infants. Whether it will survive China's legislative process and become an actual law remains to be seen. ■

MUSIC

LIVE SHOW ROUNDUP

Beijing boasts one of the world's most vibrant indie music scenes. Support our local artists with a trip to one of this week's live performances!

Múm China tour @ Yugong Yishan

Múm is an electronic and instrumental band from Iceland. It's the band's first time visiting China, and they have four shows scheduled in Shenzhen, Chengdu, Shanghai and Beijing this month. Founded in 1998, Múm is known for its heavy electronic sounds and acoustic instrumentation. Their music is characterized by soft vocals, electronic glitch beats, innovative sampling and eerie effects with a variety of traditional and unconventional instruments.

🕒 December 19, 8:30-10 pm
📍 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng
💎 220 yuan (pre sale), 260 yuan (at door)

Xandria @ Tango Club

The first album from Xandria, a German metal band with opera singers, ranked in the Top 100 German albums. The second album, *Ravenheart* (2004), and third, *India*, won even more fans. Although the band has had several changes to its lineup, Xandria has never stopped recording. In July, the band released their new EP *Fire and Ashes*.

🕒 December 18, 8:30-10:30 pm
📍 79 Hepingli Xi Jie, Dongcheng
💎 230 yuan (pre sale), 300 yuan (at door)

Year End Party @ Yugong Yishan

Mega Soul, Army of Jade Kirin, Scar Constitution, Painted Skin, Purple Hell, The Skin I Live In, Drunkard, The Uncrowned, Ice Moon and Dr. Vagent are gathering at Yugong Yishan to celebrate Christmas and the New Year.

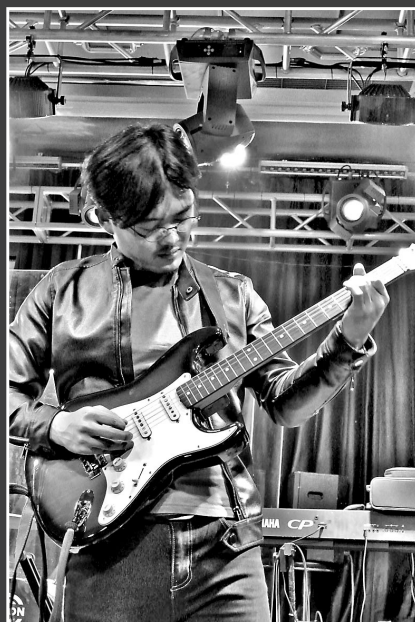
🕒 December 18, 8-11 pm
📍 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng
💎 80 yuan (pre sale), 100 yuan (at door)



Zhao Peng @ Slow Living

Zhao Peng is a pioneer bass vocalist in China. Zhao started learning music by himself at the age of 16. He also started to compose and write lyrics at that time. In 1998, Zhao enrolled in Xinghai Conservatory of Music. Two years later, Zhao formed his own band, Expand, and won 11 awards at music festivals in Guangdong. From 2004 and 2013, Zhao recorded and released 13 albums.

🕒 December 18, 8:30-10:30 pm
📍 73 Daxing Hutong, Dongcheng
💎 100 yuan (pre sale), 120 yuan (at door)



Photos by Ideal Garden



Ideal Garden: Bands of Friends

BY DIAO DIAO

Beijing's indie scene is surprisingly short on adult musicians who know what they want to do. The overwhelming majority of the bands consist of students having fun or graduates seeking a direction – and they don't last.

Ideal Garden is one of the few survivors.

Guitarists Bai Xuechuan and Zhang Chong and bassist Shi Hongren grew up together. Bai Xuechuan says they were all big fans of the 1980s sound they discovered in one brother's cassette collection.

The young music lovers quickly latched onto rock, soak-

ing up the sounds of Hong Kong rock and metal bands like Beyond and Tang Dynasty.

During the summer break between elementary and middle school, the three boys decided to take up the guitar. In those days, the cost of such a foreign instrument was beyond the means of ordinary families. But after months of fighting with their parents and saving money, each was able to acquire his first ax.

As they played and practiced, they started to think about forming a band. None wanted to give up the guitar and switch to bass, but eventually Shi made the big switch.

When it came time to enroll in college, the three got serious about their musical effort. They met Zhang Yiran, a full-time musician and their current lead singer, and Yu Chen, a drum teacher. Zhang and Yu brought valuable experience from working with other bands.

Bai Xuechuan says the decision to pursue music was not easy. "In the end, we had to do what most musicians do. We surrendered and found an ordinary job that would placate our parents while leaving us with enough time to focus on the music," Bai says.

Today, most of the members are 27 years old and have normal-sounding jobs. By day, Bai Xuechuan is an aerospace technician, Zhang Chong is a data analyst and Shi Hongren is a decoration designer.

Work makes music considerably more difficult since it steals time that could be spent composing, revising and rehearsing. And without a formal music education, it's even harder for the three to figure out how to combine their instruments or structure their songs.

Ideal Garden seems oddly optimistic about being so amateur. "Since we aren't professionals, the only way we can really learn is by absorbing what's out there and trying to figure out how to combine it and what works," Bai Xuechuan says.

The challenge is avoiding the pitfalls of pop – songs that are easy to follow, easy to remember and easy to make.

"Today there are a lot more opportunities for people to show off their music. The downside of that is there's a lot more meaningless music that's polluting the industry," Bai says.

While many young bands insist on sticking to their music and never giving up on the band, Ideal Garden is blessed and cursed with the kind of pragmatism that comes with age.

"So many people are talking about their ideals. I think the fact is that most of us have no idea what our ideals really are, so we try to make up for it by sounding grand and abstract. Even the band names are beyond any real meaning," Bai says. ■





ARTISTS



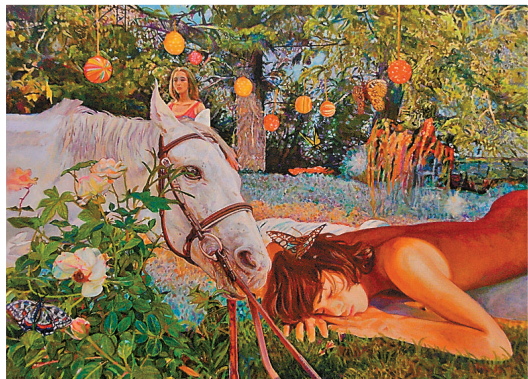
Neverland 3

Neverland Responds to Pain with Beauty

BY SHU PENGQIAN



The Artist Liu Na



Neverland 1



Neverland 18



Soft Time 3



Neverland 14



Soft Time 6

Scottish novelist James Matthew Barrie's *Peter Pan and Wendy* created a magical island in the middle of the sea named "Neverland." On Neverland, time stands still and children never grow up. It's a wonderland that protects children from earthly troubles and preserves their innocence.

Artist Liu Na creates a "Neverland" of her own in her recent series. In *Neverland 1*, a handsome boy takes a nap lazily in a rose garden, basking himself in the sunshine. In *Neverland 7* – surrounded by colorful balloons and butterflies – a bear kisses a princess's hand. In *Neverland 24*, a little girl and a peacock gaze at each other beside a lake.

"Everybody desires to possess such a place – a pure land for one's own dream, love and tranquility," Liu said. "I painted *Neverland* to be a spiritual paradise that's isolated from the noisy material world."

The images' hues and lighting create a poetic atmosphere that transports viewers into a fairytale world. Each is an expression of the artist's deep love.

"I wish my paintings can reflect the true, the good and the beautiful in life," she says.

Her style crosses from reality into an imaginary world. She gathers elements from life experience, fantastic dreams, touching songs and spellbinding books. In the mixer of her mind, they blend to create images half-imaginary and half-real.

Liu grew up surrounded by books of fairytales, myths and fables. Their interesting stories stuffed her head with imagination, and she began drawing pictures to represent the plots of each. Those early childhood scribbles formed the basis for her adult career.

Liu says drawing is the easiest way she can communicate with others. "I can

express anything I want through my paintings. Even though these scenes only appear in my dreams, I can still present them clearly with my brush," she says.

Behind each painting is a story: some express happiness – others Liu's anxiety.

The two paintings *Love* and *Pray* – Liu's capstone project in college – were inspired by the September 11 terrorist attack in the US. The miserable scene moved her to find an outlet for the bad feelings it gave her.

While many artists responded with bleak or terrifying scenes that amplified the pain they felt, Liu chose another outlet: scenes of praying children who want a return to peace.

"I don't like expressing cruelty or violence in a direct manner. I prefer to paint beautiful things in the world. That beauty can contrast with the ugliness on its own," she says.

Painting is a physically and mentally demanding job. Each finished picture requires extensive time spent improving and reworking fine details. Almost every painting is a challenge of the artist's physical and mental endurance.

Between projects Liu travels to seek inspiration and learn about local customs. Life experience is an endless source of inspiration and the best present destiny can send to an artist, she says.

Although Liu used to rely on surreal elements, as seen in her painting *Memory Box*, since 2011 she has been trying to go beyond the surreal to approach paintings from political, historical and ethnic perspectives. The paintings in *Neverland* represent this transitional phase.

Liu's next solo exhibitions will be at Beijing's LANNG Art Center, and at Shanghai's 188 Contemporary Art Center. ■



Neverland 24

LANNG Art Center

➤ Building No. 7,
Langyuan Vintage,
Tonghuihe Bei, Chaoyang, Beijing
🕒 December 18 – 20

188 Contemporary Art Center

➤ Building No. 10, Max Mall, Lianhua Nan Road, Shanghai
🕒 December 19, 2015 – January 18, 2016

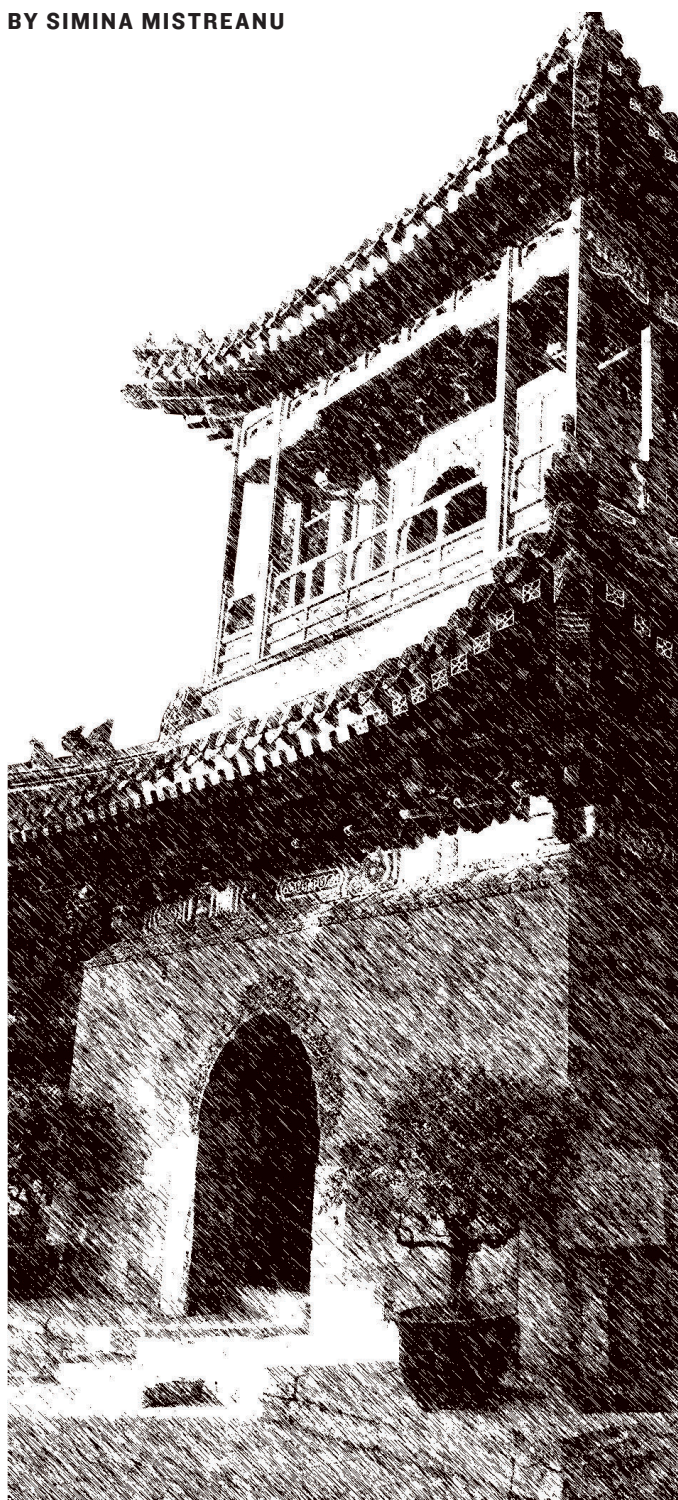
artand.cn/liuna

A TRAVEL



Beijing's Muslim Street Offers Culture, Delicious Snacks

BY SIMINA MISTREANU



In the south central part of Beijing lies Niu Jie, the heart of the capital's Muslim community. The wide boulevard, whose name is often translated as "Ox Street," is lined on each side with shops that sell snacks and fresh beef and mutton.

Especially on weekends, people wait in lines that sometimes snake around street corners for butchered meats, pastries and snacks.

The street is also the largest Hui minority enclave in Beijing, with more than 10,000 Hui people living in the area as of 2000. The Niu Jie Mosque and Beijing Xuanwu Huimin Elementary School provide religious services and education to the community.

In a city that has experienced so many changes, Niu Jie and its people have an unusually long history.

History

Hui settlement of Niu Jie dates back to the Yuan dynasty (1271-1368). Authors Wenfei Wang, Shangyi Zhou, and Cindy Fan in the book *Growth and Decline of Muslim Hui Enclaves in Beijing* say that the Hui settlers might have been related to Muslims from the army of Genghis Khan, which had conquered Beijing.

However Niu Jie Mosque was built two centuries before, in 996, and destroyed by the army of Genghis Khan in 1215.

During the Yuan dynasty, Niu Jie was located outside the main Beijing city wall. The neighborhood was somewhat isolated, with Mongolian and Han Chinese residents living within the city wall. Dru Gladney, author of *Muslim Chinese: Ethnic Nationalism in the People's Republic*, wrote that Han people rarely walked the neighborhood alone.

The community got its current name, Niu Jie, during the Qing dynasty (1644-1912), when its members started specializing in beef.

In the late 1990s, the area underwent renovations, and most of the 3,000 families living there had to be relocated. New apartment buildings were built, and in the early 2000s most of the area's former residents moved

back in. The residential area, though containing typical Chinese blocks of flats, has Muslim influences such as a mosque-shaped gazebo in a neighborhood park.

Things to Do

Niu Jie today has two main attractions: the mosque and the food.

The Niu Jie Mosque is Beijing's oldest and largest. It includes a main prayer hall, with an area of 600 square meters, several courtyards, a women's mosque, men's and women's ablution chambers and the tombs of two Imams from the 13th century.

The mosque's architecture is very interesting: on the outside, it has Chinese influences, while on the inside it features Arabic calligraphy in the Sini script and Chinese decorations.

While the main prayer hall is closed to non-Muslims, the courtyards are quiet and pleasant, with the women's area being particularly charming. On a recent afternoon, several women had gathered there with their children, telling stories and laughing.

Out on the street, meat and snacks are everywhere. People line up to buy thin-cut slices of mutton and different cuts of beef. Bread and pastries filled with vegetables and meat abound.

On the west side of the street is a Muslim Supermarket, with more food and snacks including cakes, pastries and meats. On the second floor of the supermarket, the Muslim Food Palace is a food court with restaurants selling steamed beef dumplings and various types of kababs. ■

📍 Niu Jie Mosque, 88 Niu Jie, Xicheng District.

🚇 Take subway Line 4 to Caishikou, then walk west to Niu Jie. Or take bus lines 10, 48, 88 or 717, and get off at Niu Jie Libaisi Station.

🕒 8 am-4 pm

💰 10 yuan



ENTERTAINMENT



'Oh My God' Ranks 2015's Worst

BY DIAO DIAO



With its miserable one-star rating on Dsmovie, *Oh My God* is certainly in the running for worst film of 2015. The film has been panned by viewers and critics since its debut on December 4.

The story follows two couples whose lives are changed when a baby boy falls out of the sky and into their apartment. In the midst of the family's ham-handed attempts at zany humor and efforts to emulate every failing of new parents, the couples discover the new baby has super powers.

The act of child rearing helps the two couples grow from boys and girls to men and women. But just when life appears to be returning to normal – or at least what passes for normal in this grate of film – the four adults are hit by a truck while on a motor trip.

In a stunning display of deus ex machina, Sky Boy becomes shrouded in light, rescues the four adults and vanishes back into the heavens.

Within seven days of release, nearly 60 percent of the viewers gave the movie a single star. Its average score was 3.8 out of 10 points, which several reviewers noted was far too generous already.

A few reviewers who were desperate for something good to say about *Oh My God* noted that the actors were hot and the baby was biracial.

Perhaps the most impressive thing about the movie is its producer: Zhang Ziyi.

For those who have not been keeping up with the starlet's production career, it might be best likened to a car hurtling off a bridge. With its unenviable 6.1 ranking, *Sophie's Revenge* represents her career's last moments on solid ground.

The film was also billed as the directorial debut of Wei Nan. A casual look at his other work shows that virtually everything he touches ends up rejected by viewers.

But it's hard to imagine a director who could have rescued *Oh My God's* absurd story. There's no explaining the suspension of logic required to believe how a biracial baby's DNA test can reveal it to have two Chinese fathers and no mother.

Nor is there any way to explain the slow-motion shots of throwing away soiled diapers.

Viewers said that if the ticket price had been higher than 10 yuan they wouldn't have gone to the cinema at all. ■

No Mr. Right in This World

BY DIAO DIAO

Marital problems related to sex and love are more serious in China than many imagine – especially for women.

Modernization has confronted Chinese women with more kinds of love relationships than existed in the past, but traditional views leave them with precious few placed to turn to help.

Those with confused hearts might find some inspiration in *Dear, There is No Mr. Right in This World*, released by Pan Xingzhi in October to help girls and women with love affairs.

Pan Xingzhi is the CEO of Xingzhi Emotion Consulting. His book draws from the work of hundreds of psychologists to help women achieve independence and find their true love.

People – especially women – are married to an idea that they have to find their "Mr. Right." But Pan said there is no right person for anyone, and perfect lovers don't exist.

The closest a couple can get to perfect is when both partners work to protect and nurture their love.

The book is divided into four chapters. Each has a theme and section for women of different ages.

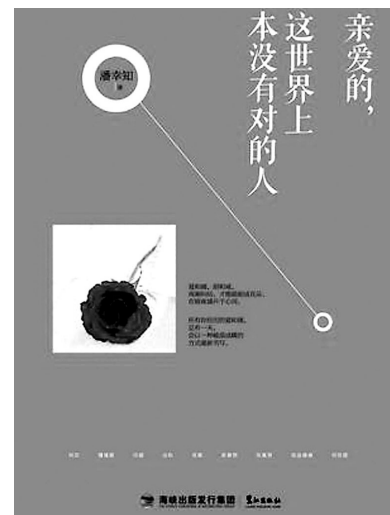
The first chapter is for young women in their 20s. Young women tend to like bad boys, and the chapter explains the psychology of this attraction and offers advice. The chapter also includes advice for young women who marry early.

Chapter two is aimed at married women who need to know how to balance the relationship between their mother, husband and mother-in-law. It also advises mature women about what kind of men are reliable.

Chapter three mainly talks about life after years of marriage, how to survive the first seven-year itch and doubts that most women have about their husbands.

Chapter four is about other problems such as family violence, sex, mistresses, homosexuality and other unusual relationship troubles.

Many readers said the cases were similar to things they experienced in life. Some people said they tried the suggestions in the book, and that they saved their marriage. ■



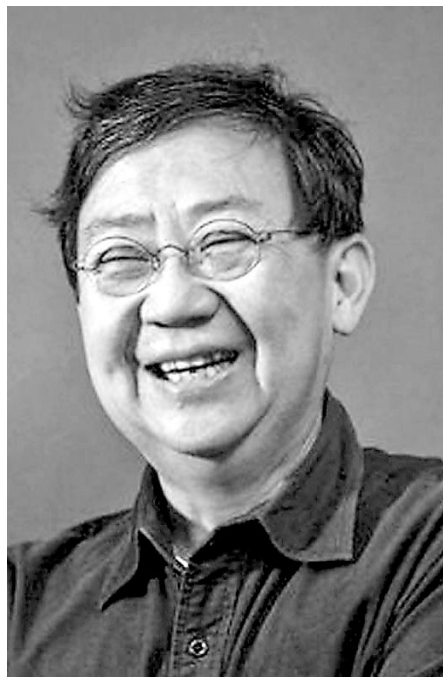
Photos by douban.com

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Q CLASSIFIEDS

ART



'In Between Arts': Arts Management Forum and Master Class Series

The cultural and creative industries are rapidly developing on the Chinese mainland, especially with the growth of exhibition venues and arts festivals. The trend is creating an increased demand for arts managers, some of whom may face tricky problems in management, planning, marketing and promotion.

Hemark Culture is welcoming Jay Levenson from MoMA, Cheung Fai from Fever & Marvels, Ho Hing Kay Oscar & Lim Kok Wai Benny from Chuk and Lee Ying Lena from AESM Community Arts Consultant to share their experiences in arts management. Participants can share any questions and build new relationships in this two-day workshop.

- ⌚ 9 am-5 pm, December 19
- 📍 Renmin University of China (Renda), 59 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian District
- ✉ info@hermarkculture.com



Geese Fly in Formation

EGG Art Gallery is pleased to announce Geese Fly in Formation, an exhibition of art by Wang Xingjie, Zhang Xing and Zheng Qiang. The exhibition title is taken

from the ancient verse of Songs, Zheng-feng, Dashuyutian.

Wang Xingjie, Zhang Xing and Zheng Qiang are very different artists. Yet in the framework of their art, they coincidentally all developed realistic figures. Through a subjective reconstruction of the picture, they create meaning by blurring space and leaving the context open to multiple interpretations.

Wang's artistic language is wild and simple: it combines the passion of academy style with conservative aesthetics. Zhang Xing's paintings are more focused on everyday objects: they construct the opinions toward everyday life and transmit emotion. The objects stand alone and become the bonding of the artist. Zheng Qiang's paintings are the works of vision and passion.

- ⌚ 10 am - 6 pm, December 31
- 📍 EGG Gallery, 327 Caochangdi, Cuige-zhuang, Chaoyang District

COMMUNITY



US Presidential Debate Watch

Meet on Sunday at breakfast to watch Bernie Sanders vs Hillary Clinton with special guest commentary.

Doors open at 8 am, and the debate begins at 8:30 am. The viewing is hosted by Beijing for Bernie, but everyone is welcome - even Hillary supporters and Republicans.

- 📍 Cu Ju Moroccan Bistrot and Rummery, 28 Xiguan Hutong (off Dongsi Bei Dajie), 15 minutes north of Zhangzizhong Lu
- ⌚ 8 am -11 pm, December, 20
- ✉ chrisverrill@yahoo.com



Winter Mandarin Camp

The winter holiday is coming soon. If you're busy with work and have no time to take care of your child, then send them to Chinese language school. Classes at the Winter Mandarin Camp teach language and traditional culture. Possible field trips may include the Palace Museum and the Great Wall.

- ⌚ 9:30 am - 3:30 pm, multiple dates
- 📍 303 room Jinchun Business Center Hepingli, No. 7 Community No. 15 Building, Dongcheng
- 💰 400/day
- ✉ info@idealmmandarin.com
- ☎ 13261923548

CULTURE



Chinese Real Life Practice: Panjiayuan Antique Market

Panjiayuan Antique Market, opened in 1992, is the most popular antiques market in the country. Aside from reproduction furniture, calligraphy tools, paintings, old magazines and books, the market also deals in ceramics, jade, coins, bamboo and bone carvings, shadow puppets, national costumes and relics of the Cultural Revolution.

Thousands of foreign tourists have visited the market, including Hillary Clinton, former Secretary of State of the US, and Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

- ⌚ 10 am- 4 pm, December 26
- 🌐 chinaledu.com
- ✉ info@chinaledu.com
- ☎ (010) 5869 5800



4 Weeks Winter Chinese Program 2015-2016

Beijing Global Village School is offering a four-week course in Chinese from December 22 to January 19 and January 18 to February 19.

Fees include textbooks and teaching materials, course fees, outings to 798 Art Zone and the university district, and materials for making dumplings and learning mahjong.

- 💰 4,480 yuan
- 🌐 gvschinese.com
- ✉ gvschinese1993@126.com

MUSIC



Aska Yang 2015 Beijing Concert

Aska Yang was born on April 4, 1978 in Taoyuan, Taiwan. He is a Taiwanese pop singer who graduated from the National Changhua University of Education (NCUE) with a major in Guidance and Counseling.

During his study at NCUE, he attended singing contests and won some prizes. He is now studying a master's degree in the Sports Psychology Department at National Taiwan Sport University (NTSU).

- ⌚ 7:30-10:30 pm, December 19
- 💰 280/480/680/880/1,280/1,680 yuan
- ☎ 4006103721

Converse Rubber Tracks **12.19 sat.**
X
School Live
匡威橡胶制造特别现场

FREE
萬重
(Mega Soul)



Converse Rubber Tracks Free Show Featuring Mega Soul!

Come for Volume 7 of Converse Rubber Tracks and School Bar's Free Show Series! On this evening, one of the biggest metal bands in China takes the stage at School Bar: Mega Soul.

Mega Soul was formed in May 2012 after members of different metal bands came together to form this "super group." After a year and a half of songwriting, the band finished their first album and made their debut at the May 2014 Midi Music Festival. It is a special treat for Mega Soul fans within the comfy confines of School Bar. Don't miss out on this intimate free show opportunity!

- ⌚ 9-11:30 pm, December 19
- 💰 Free
- 📍 School Bar, 53 Wudaoying Hutong

FOODS



Food Picks for International Visitors

BY WANG YAN

China has become a popular destination for international tourism during the last decade. Cities across China have their own charm, but delicious food is essential to a good tour.

With a long history, unique features, numerous styles and exquisite cooking, Chinese cuisine is a cornerstone of local culture. Chinese dishes are famous for their color, aroma, taste, meaning and appearance.

The following dishes are the most popular among foreign visitors.

Sweet and Sour Fillets (Tang Cu Li Ji)

This colorful dish comes from Zhejiang cuisine. Made of thinly sliced pork, the dish is crisp on the outside and tender on the inside. It's orange and tastes sweet and sour at the same time.

People love its special taste, its freshness, its crispy skin and its tender meat. Although its roots are in Zhejiang, national



popularity has resulted in every province introducing its own take on the dish. In Zhejiang, lots of people add Chinese wine to the dish. In Sichuan, people often use strong spices and tomato sauce in the dish.

Kung Pao Chicken (Gong Bao Ji Ding)

Well known across China and even at Chinese restaurants outside China, kung pao chicken is China's most famous culinary ambassador. The usually spicy dish is made with chicken, peanuts, vegetables and chili peppers. The classic version of the Sichuan dish includes liberal use of Sichuan peppercorns.

Legend says the dish was discovered by Ding Baozhen, a late Qing Dynasty official and governor of Sichuan Province. He was very interested in cooking and had a particular preference for chicken, peanuts and peppers. He ordered his chef to cook something combining the three elements and promoted the result across the province.



Photos by Nicpic



Spring Rolls (Chun Juan)

Spring rolls are one of the most well-known Chinese dishes outside China. Almost every Chinese restaurant serves spring rolls.

The dish is mainly served as an appetizer or in dim sum dining, a style popular in southern China. The roll is said to be developed from a style of spring pancake (*chunbing*) used in ancient China. Normally eaten during spring, *chunbing* are considered an auspicious dish to bring fortune in the coming year.

Spring rolls are popular across China, and the kinds of wraps, fillings and cooking techniques used in spring rolls vary across regions. Some use vegetable fillings while others use seafood or pork. ■

Yinxiang Xiaoguan

BY WANG YAN

Located in Nanluogu Xiang, Yinxiang Xiaoguan is easy for tourists to track down. The carefully decorated restaurant is a great place for visitors to stop after a long day spent walking around the area.

Although the restaurant is a fairly recent creation, it already had more than a dozen branch stores across the city. Yinxiang Xiaoguan advertises itself as "new-style" Beijing cuisine. It's well-known for its Old Beijing decor of wooden chairs, wooden tables and ancient lanterns—all intend to transport diners into the past.

While the decorations may be old, the dishes are all new. It serves curry chicken with toast and blueberry cakes to appeal to young diners and foreign visitors.

The braised pork is particularly popular among eaters and was recommended by Dianping users. Many praised the pork for being very tender and not greasy. Beef with sour soup is also recommended by many users, who said the dish is perfect for a winter night. Users also liked the curry chicken with toast saying the combined flavor of curry and sweet toast adds something unique to the dish.

For desert, users recommended almond tofu, a classic Beijing treat.



Photos by Dianping.com

MAKE YOUR OWN WITH THIS RECIPE

Learn to Make Yangzhou Fried Rice

BY WANG YAN

Yangzhou fried rice is one of the most well-known Chinese dishes and very easy to make on your own. This simple recipe can help you use up some leftover rice in your home.

Ingredients:

- ☐ 1 egg
- ☐ 150g sausage
- ☐ 150g carrot
- ☐ 20-30 green beans
- ☐ 20g shelled shrimp
- ☐ 1 dish or bowl of cooked and cooled rice
- ☐ green onion
- ☐ salt
- ☐ chicken bouillon



The Steps:

1. Boil the green beans for 3-6 minutes over high heat until they turn soft. Remove the beans, and place them into a small basin of cold water. Drain for later use.
2. Boil the shrimp for 1-2 minutes, and remove them. Place in cold water for later use.

3. Crack the egg in a bowl, and whip it. Stir-fry the egg in a wok over high heat, and fry for about 10 seconds until the egg sets. Remove the egg from the wok, and reserve it in a bowl.
4. Chop the green onion, and dice the carrot.
5. Stir fry the green onion, diced carrot, green beans and shrimp for one minute. Add salt, and cook another 10 seconds. Add the diced sausage, and stir fry another minute.
6. Add the cooked rice, and stir fry for 2 minutes. Add some salt and chicken bouillon, and stir-fry for another 20 seconds.
7. Add the egg. Reduce to a low heat, and stir fry it for 10 seconds until all the ingredients are well mixed.

Yinxiang Xiaoguan

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